

Application
Nebraska Parenting Act
Parenting Education Provider Information

Approval Process:

Please submit the following in the order listed:

- 1. Provider Information Sheet:** Please complete this information sheet and submit with the approval packet.
 - a. **New Facilitators/Educators:** If the organization has a new educator, please submit three letters of reference as to the performance, proficiency, and quality of the individual facilitator/educator for the educational program, along with a signed Provider Compliance Statement by the new educator/faculty.

- 2. Educational Objectives and Provider Guidelines / Statement of Compliance:** There are two educational courses described by the Parenting Act, Basic Level Parenting Education and Second Level Parenting Education. For each of the educational courses, the State Court Administrator has approved the statutorily-required educational objectives and suggested additional objectives (provided in table format), and provider guidelines for each course.
 - a. **Educational Objective Instructions:** Complete the Educational Objective Table for each course for which State Court Administrator approval is being requested.
 - i. Check whether your curriculum provides information to meet the statutorily-required learning objectives indicated in the Yes/No box. The statutorily-required learning objectives are numbered and in bold on the Educational Objective Table. Education providers that do not meet these statutorily required curriculum objectives will not receive approval from the State Court Administrator to provide parent education for the courts.
 - ii. Additional optional educational components are listed in the shaded boxes. Check as to whether your curriculum includes those elements.

 - b. **Provider Guidelines/Compliance Statement Instructions:** Please read the Provider Guidelines. If your program meets the requirements, sign the Statement of Compliance. Only those providers that meet these guidelines and submit the signed Statement of Compliance will receive State Court Administrator approval.

Statutory Authority:

Subsection (1) of the Parenting Act, Nebraska Revised Statute §43-2928 states: “The court shall order all parties to a proceeding under the Parenting Act to attend a basic level parenting education course.” Waivers are permitted. Subsection (2) states that “The court may order parties . . . to attend a second-level parenting education course subsequent to completion of the basic level course when screening or a factual determination of child abuse or neglect, domestic intimate partner abuse, or unresolved parental conflict has been identified.” Subsection (3) states that “The State Court Administrator shall approve all parenting education courses under the act.”

The Act sets forth descriptions of content of these courses as follows:

Subsection (4) states: “The basic level parenting education course pursuant to this section shall be designed to educate the parties about the impact of the pending court action upon the child and appropriate application of parenting functions. The course shall include, but not be limited to, information on the developmental stages of children, adjustment of a child to parental separation, the litigation and court process, alternative dispute resolution, conflict management, stress reduction, guidelines for parenting time, visitation, or other access, provisions for safety and transition plans, and information about parents and children affected by child abuse or neglect, domestic intimate partner abuse, and unresolved parental conflict.”

Subsection (5) states: “The second-level parenting education course pursuant to this section shall include, but not be limited to information about development of provisions for safety and transition plans, the potentially harmful impact of domestic intimate partner abuse and unresolved parental conflict on the child, use of effective communication techniques and protocols, resource and referral information for victim and perpetrator services, batterer intervention programs, and referrals for mental health services, substance abuse services, and other community resources.”

The Act sets forth language regarding costs and scheduling separate educational courses for parties to a conflictual relationship as follows:

Subsection (6) states: “Each party shall be responsible for the costs, if any, of attending any court-ordered parenting education course.”

Subsection (6) further states that “At the request of any party, or based upon screening or recommendation of a mediator, the parties shall be allowed to attend separate courses or to attend the same course at different times, particularly if child abuse or neglect, domestic intimate partner abuse, or unresolved parental conflict is or has been present in the relationship or one party has threatened the other party.”

Submittal: Submit this packet to:

Nebraska Office of Dispute Resolution
Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation
c/o Parent Education
P. O. Box 98910
Lincoln, NE 68509-8910

Email address: nsc.mediation@nejudicial.gov

Email submittals will be accepted; facsimiles will not be accepted.

Any questions should be directed to Nicole Britten at 402-416-0670, nicole.britten@nejudicial.gov .

2024 Nebraska Parenting Act Educational Provider Information Sheet

A. Contact Information: Check if the information below is a change in your contact information

Name of Organization: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Person Submitting: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

B. Education course(s) being requested for approval:

_____ Basic Level On-Site Parenting Education – Classroom and Synchronous* (Part I)

_____ Second Level Parenting Education – Classroom and Synchronous* (Part II)

_____ Online (Asynchronous*) Basic Level Parenting Education (Part III)

Website Address: _____

(required for online [asynchronous] course approval)

I verify that the online, asynchronous Basic Level Parenting Education course is directly provided by the organization noted above and is the same organization submitting this application.

If the organization noted above redirects to participants to a third-party vendor, that vendor is required to submit the application for approval for the Online Basic Level Parenting Education course.

C. Language: Do you provide your parenting education course in a language other than English?

No Yes, in the following language(s) _____

D. Attach your 2024 education course schedule, including dates, times, location(s), and cost.

E. Do you offer a sliding fee or fee waiver? No Yes

F. Facilitators/Educators *(For new educators, submit three letters of professional reference):*

Names of Facilitator/Educator <i>(Check the box only if the facilitator/educator is new)</i>	Contact Information <i>(if different than provider)</i>	Relationship to Provider <i>(employee; contractor; other)</i>	Educational background (highest degree, years of providing parent education)
<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>			

**Synchronous learning means that the trainer and participant(s) are together at the same time, either in person or through an online meeting platform (Skype, Zoom, etc.) allowing them to interact. Asynchronous learning is a self-paced webinar-style training in which the trainer and participant(s) are unable to interact in real time.*

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SECTION 1: BASIC LEVEL PARENTING</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Items numbered and in bold are mandatory.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For use by both onsite/synchronous and online/asynchronous educational formats.</p> <p>A. EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES - Parents who attend this educational course will:</p>	Curriculum meets the learning objective	
	Yes	No
1. Learn about the potential impact of the court action (separation/divorce) upon a child.		
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>		
○ To what extent should children be involved in the court action		
○ Empowering parents		
○ Using a child centered approach		
○ Safety		
2. Identify ways to appropriately address parenting functions.		
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>		
○ Basic Parenting Education		
○ Parenting functions as outlined in the statute		
3. Identify the developmental stages of children.		
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>		
○ What is “normal” behavior		
○ Ages and stages and the ranges of these stages		
○ Impact of crisis such as divorce upon the stages of the child’s development		
○ Consideration of the child(ren)’s stage(s) of development when designing the Parenting Plan		
4. Learn about ways to support the child’s adjustment to parental separation.		
5. Identify the elements of Nebraska’s Parenting Plan and how to develop a plan.		
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>		
○ Elements of a parenting plan		
○ Guidelines for parenting time/visitation/or other access		
○ How to create a parenting plan (parental negotiation, attorney negotiation, mediation, specialized alternative dispute resolution (SADR), litigation)		
6. Learn about alternative dispute resolution, conflict management, stress reduction, appropriate language usage, and positive communication.		
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>		
○ Use of “I” messages		
○ How to help children with alienation		
○ Interest based negotiation techniques		
7. Identify provisions for safety and transition plans under the Nebraska Parenting Act.		
8. Identify attributes of child abuse, neglect, domestic intimate partner abuse and unresolved parental conflict, and how they impact members of the family.		
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>		
○ Mandatory reporting requirements		
○ Effects of DIPA and child abuse/neglect at different stages of development		
○ On going persistent parental conflict and its impact on children		
○ Definitions/terms: domestic intimate partner abuse vs. high conflict		
9. Identify parenting through separation resources and references for those wanting to get more information from web sites and books.		

BASIC LEVEL PARENTING EDUCATION (ON-SITE/SYNCHRONOUS)

B. PROVIDER GUIDELINES

1. The statutorily-required educational objectives are being met by the provider.
2. Safety for participants during the intake process and throughout the educational experience is addressed by:
 - a. Offering separate classes for either party in a case.
 - b. Screening questions to assess presence of domestic intimate partner abuse.
 - c. Safety measures are in place at the site and time of the class.
3. Provider shall provide a written proof of completion for each participant, provided at no additional cost.
4. Provider shall inform participants that they will need to complete Nebraska State Court form DC6:5.5, and provide instructions where the form is located (supremecourt.nebraska.gov/parent-ed) or provide the form (attached) to participants.
5. Providers must submit significant curriculum modifications to the AOCPP for approval.
6. The basic level class is at least two (2) hours in length and no more than six (6) hours in length.
7. Participants have the opportunity to evaluate the course
8. Education class facilitator/educator qualifications shall include:
 - a. Bachelor's degree required in children and family, psychology, sociology, social work related field or equivalent.
 - b. Master's degree preferred in children and family, psychology, sociology, social work related field or equivalent OR equivalent experience in one of the above listed areas.
 - c. Exceptions to the facilitator/educator qualifications will be reviewed on a case by case basis and must receive approval by the State Court Administrator or its designee.
 - d. Three written references for the facilitator/educator regarding performance, proficiency, and quality is required to be submitted to the State Court Administrator as part of the request for approval.
 - e. Child welfare check must be done for the educator facilitating the course.
 - f. Knowledge required in the following fields: domestic violence; mediation and specialized ADR under the Nebraska Parenting Act; parenting plans; family dynamics; understanding of mandatory child abuse and neglect reporting requirements; parental conflict and impact upon children.

C. FORMAT

This course will be provided (select all that apply):

- Classroom Style Online Meeting Platform (Skype, Zoom, etc.) & Synchronous

Statement of Compliance: *As a provider of basic level parent education, I affirm that my organization and the facilitator/educators meet the Provider Guidelines as stated above. Additionally, I grant permission for a representative from the Office of Dispute Resolution to audit any scheduled course.*

Name / Title

Date

For Basic Level On-Site Educational Approval – Submit the following:

1. Provider Information Sheet
2. Basic Level Parenting Educational Objectives Table
3. Provider Guidelines Statement of Compliance (basic level)
4. Course Schedule including dates, times, location(s), cost, and sliding fee scale, if applicable.
5. Sample of proof of completion that is provided to participants at no additional cost

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SECTION 2: SECOND-LEVEL PARENTING</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Items numbered and in bold are mandatory.</p> <p>A. EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES</p> <p>Parents who attend this educational course will:</p>	Curriculum meets the learning objective	
	Yes	No
<p>1. Identify the “why” and “how” to develop provisions for safety and transition plans.</p>		
<p><i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i></p>		
<p>○ As it applies to the parenting plan</p>		
<p>○ Examples of safe transitions</p>		
<p>○ Parallel parenting</p>		
<p>○ Options if plan is violated</p>		
<p>2. Identify the potential harmful impact of domestic intimate partner abuse and unresolved parental conflict on the child.</p>		
<p><i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i></p>		
<p>○ Definition of terms</p>		
<p>○ Developmental stage specific effects</p>		
<p>○ Resiliency factors</p>		
<p>○ Joint and sole custody behaviors</p>		
<p>○ Purpose of child support and ways to defuse unnecessary conflict</p>		
<p>3. Learn effective communication techniques and protocols.</p>		
<p><i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i></p>		
<p>○ Plan for communicating about the needs of children</p>		
<p>○ Safe communication for all parties with examples</p>		
<p>4. Become aware of resource and referral information for victim, perpetrator, and batterer services.</p>		
<p><i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i></p>		
<p>○ Victim services</p>		
<p>○ Perpetrator Services</p>		
<p>○ Batterer Intervention Programs</p>		
<p>○ Referrals for mental health services, substance abuse services, and other community resources</p>		

SECOND LEVEL PARENTING EDUCATION

B. PROVIDER GUIDELINES

1. The statutorily-required objectives are being met by the provider.
2. Safety for participants during the intake process and throughout the educational experience is addressed by:
 - a. Providing an increased level of security.
 - b. Requiring separate classes for men and women.
3. Provider shall provide a written proof of completion for each participant, provided at no additional cost.
4. Provider shall inform participants that they will need to complete Nebraska State Court form DC6:5.5, and provide instructions where the form is located (supremecourt.nebraska.gov/parent-ed) or provide the form (attached) to participants.
5. Participants have the opportunity to evaluate the course.
6. A minimum of a two (2) hour and a maximum of a six (6) hour course.
7. Education Class Facilitator Qualifications shall include:
 - a. Bachelor's degree required in children and family, psychology, sociology, social work related field or equivalent.
 - b. Master's degree preferred in children and family, psychology, sociology, social work related field or equivalent OR equivalent experience in one of the above listed areas.
 - c. Exceptions to these requirements will be reviewed on a case by case basis and approved by the AOC Parent Education Committee.
 - d. Must submit three written references regarding the facilitator/educator's performance, proficiency, and quality.
 - e. Child welfare background check must be done for those facilitating the child of divorce course.
 - f. Knowledge required in the following fields: domestic violence, mediation and specialized ADR under the Nebraska Parenting Act, parenting plans, family dynamics, understanding of mandatory reporting requirements, and parental conflict.

C. FORMAT

This course will be provided (select all that apply):

- Classroom Style Online Meeting Platform (Skype, Zoom, etc.) & Synchronous

Statement of Compliance: *As a provider of second level parent education, I affirm that my organization and the facilitator/educators meet the Provider Guidelines as stated above. Additionally, I grant permission for a representative from the Office of Dispute Resolution to audit any scheduled course.*

Name / Title

Date

For Second Level Educational Approval – Submit the following:

1. Provider Information Sheet
2. Second Level Parenting Educational Objectives Checklist
3. Provider Guidelines Statement of Compliance (second level)
4. Course Schedule and Sliding Fee Schedule
5. Sample of proof of completion that is provided to participants at no additional cost

SECTION 3: BASIC LEVEL PARENTING EDUCATION (ONLINE [ASYNCHRONOUS])

A. EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES – BASIC LEVEL PARENTING EDUCATION

1. Parents who attend a basic parenting education course for divorcing or separating parents by accessing online, asynchronous learning and related technological resources that allow for independent learning will achieve the same educational objectives as outlined for Basic Level Parenting (page 4).
2. During all courses, including those presented by telecommunications or utilizing other educational technologies, there should be an opportunity to ask questions of the course facilitator. If the facilitator is not available either in person or via telephone, then a qualified commentator should be available to offer comment and answer questions in writing or via e-mail.

B. SECOND LEVEL PARENTING EDUCATION

Due to the purpose and sensitive nature of the second level parenting education course as defined by the Nebraska Parenting Act, educational objectives cannot be achieved through asynchronous learning using technological resources for independent learning. Providers of online asynchronous second level parenting education courses will not be approved by the State Court Administrator.

D. PROVIDER GUIDELINES

1. The statutorily-required educational objectives as detailed under Section 1: Basic Level Parenting are being met by the provider as indicated by submittal and approval of Basic Level Parenting Educational Objectives Checklist.
2. Educators shall provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions of course facilitators regardless if the online course is provided through either synchronous or/and asynchronous instruction. Educators or facilitators, qualified as described below, will inform participants as to when they are available for regular communication by:
 - a. Sharing email address and phone number with all participants at the start of the class.
 - b. Scheduling telephone office hours where participants can expect to call and speak directly to the instructor.
 - c. Returning emails or voicemail messages in a timely manner.
3. If the provider offers online chat, blogs, or posts in an open forum, the provider shall screen all on-line communications prior to posting.
4. Comprehension of educational objectives will be facilitated using a variety of means including text, images, video, and quizzes.
 - a. Video will be used to distribute information such as visual or procedural concepts that are hard to express in text.
 - b. Real life or simulated demonstrations of parenting dilemmas, conflict, and related separation issues will be used in addition to lecture format.
5. Safety for participants during the intake process and throughout the educational experience is addressed by:
 - a. Keeping participants' direct contact and personal information for use only by the instructor, not shared with any other participants.
 - b. Assigning a user name (which will not compromise personal information) to every participant for use during course and participant interaction.
 - c. Maintaining privacy of feedback and information from outside of group discussions.
 - d. Allowing either party to enroll in separate classes if safety is a concern.

6. Provider shall provide a written proof of completion for each participant, provided at no additional cost.
7. Provider shall inform participants that they will need to complete Nebraska State Court form DC6:5.5, and provide instructions where the form is located (supremecourt.nebraska.gov/parent-ed) or provide the form (attached) to participants.
8. The online class reflects an amount of content similar to that which is provided during an onsite/synchronous workshop of two (2) hours in length and no more than six (6) hours in length.
9. Participants have the opportunity to evaluate the course.
10. Participants will sign off on a course policies agreement that incorporates the guidelines within this statement.
11. Provider will need to define hardware and software and internet requirements for class participation. Provider will respond to technology questions in a timely manner.
12. Online curriculum has been developed/will be facilitated by educators and partners with qualifications that reflect:
 - a. Bachelor’s degree required in children and family, psychology, sociology, social work related field or equivalent.
 - b. Master’s degree preferred in children and family, psychology, sociology, social work related field or equivalent OR equivalent experience in one of the above listed areas.
 - c. Knowledge required in the following fields: domestic violence, mediation and specialized ADR under the Nebraska Parenting Act, parenting plans, family dynamics, understanding of mandatory child abuse and neglect reporting requirements, and parental conflict and impact upon children.
 - d. Basic technology skills including but not limited to:
 - ability to operate within the preferred standard operating system (Windows, macOS).
 - ability to use the preferred standard word processing application(s).
 - ability to use preferred email applications.
 - ability to use the preferred web browser.
 - ability to use the preferred course management system.

Statement of Compliance: *As a provider of online basic level parent education, I affirm that my organization and the facilitator/educators meet the Provider Guidelines as stated above. Additionally, I grant permission for a representative from the Office of Dispute Resolution to audit any scheduled course.*

Name / Title

Date

For Basic Level Online (Asynchronous) Educational Approval – Submit the following:

1. Completed Provider Information Sheet
2. Basic Level Parenting Educational Objectives Table
3. Provider Guidelines Statement of Compliance (online)
4. Course Schedule and Sliding Fee Schedule
5. Sample of proof of completion that is provided to participants at no additional cost